

Though the single tax would ultimately put an end to the evils of private ownership of land as completely as land nationalization could, and though the question of compensation is therefore involved in the one proposition as well as in the other, it is not involved in the single tax proposition in the same way in which it is involved in land nationalization. In connection with the land nationalization scheme, compensation is a practical question. The state cannot transfer land ownership from individuals to itself without directly deciding whether to compensate or not. But in connection with the single tax proposition, compensation is only an academic question. Nothing could be more absurd than seriously to propose to compensate men for paying their taxes. That would instantly be seen to be a proposition to return his taxes to every taxpayer. The single tax, therefore, does not and cannot raise the question of compensation, as a practical issue. The only question it raises is whether public expenses ought to be met by taxes upon property which public improvements and government do not increase in value, as at present, or upon property which public improvements and government do increase in value.

That question has been raised in England, as the quotations at the head of this article pretty conclusively show. And though the movement there may at the beginning aim to do no more than bring land values into the category of taxable property, the principle from which it evidently derives its impulse, that of taxing men in proportion to the pecuniary benefits which the public confers upon them will not allow it to stop with that beginning.

After the English people see that the pecuniary benefits of government are absorbed in ground rents by land-owners, and so made to doubly burden tenants—once in taxes to maintain the government, and again in higher rents for the privilege of living under the government they maintain—the English movement for the taxation of ground values will not lose its momentum until all ground values are swept by taxation into the public exchequer and all other taxes are abolished.

NEWS

The first step in the process of establishing a large standing army for the United States was accomplished on the 31st, by the passage in the house of representatives of the bill for army reorganization. This bill makes many alterations in detail, but its leading and most important feature is its provision for increasing the size of the regular army.

Since 1875, and up to the war with Spain, the army was strictly limited to 25,000 enlisted men and 2,116 officers, exclusive of the hospital corps. Its actual strength fell slightly short of this maximum. Attempts were frequently made in congress to raise the maximum, but always without success. The traditional dangers and expense of standing armies still strongly influenced public opinion. This influence was felt also when the army was put upon a war footing last spring. As the bill for that purpose was first reported by the military committee of the house, it authorized an increase to 61,000, without providing for a reduction to the old maximum at the end of the war; but by amendment, the bill when finally passed required that at the end of the war the army should be reduced to the peace basis of 25,000 enlisted men. But at the present session of congress, when the war was virtually at an end and the army had been recruited up to the new maximum, its reduction to the old maximum of 25,000 was sought to be forestalled by the introduction of a bill raising the maximum to 100,000 men. By amendment this maximum was coupled with a minimum of 50,000, leaving the size of the army, between those extremes, to the discretion of the president; and in that shape the bill passed the house on the 31st, as stated in the preceding paragraph. The vote for the bill as thus amended was 168. There were 125 votes in opposition. Six republicans voted against the bill; 4 democrats and 1 populist voted for it.

Representative Amos Cummings, of New York, proposed an amendment to the army reorganization bill, prohibiting the use of United States troops to suppress riots and maintain the local peace, except upon the application in writing of the governor of the state in which such domestic disturbances might occur; but his amendment was defeated.

Orders have been issued by the war department to expedite the movement of reinforcements to the Philippines, and all the week troops have been in motion in that direction. The 4th regiment of infantry is on its way on board the transport Grant, which sailed from New York, and is probably not far now from the Suez canal. The 22d infantry sailed from San Francisco on the 1st; and the 3d infantry, with several companies of the 17th, are on their way to New York to go to the Philippines through the Suez canal. The 12th infantry is under orders to sail from New York on the 9th.

This hustling of reinforcements to the Orient is supposed to indicate that a conflict with the Filipinos is expected. But hardly any information is given out at Washington, and news from Manila is censored by the American authorities there. It appears, however, that Gen. Otis has recalled the 51st Iowa volunteers from near Iloilo, leaving the 18th regular infantry and the 6th artillery behind. There is also news to the effect that the Filipino congress at Malolos has adopted the republican constitution, passed a vote of confidence in Aguinaldo, and empowered him to declare war on the Americans whenever he deems it advisable.

Agoncillo, the Filipino envoy to the United States, has submitted a voluminous memorial to the state department at Washington. He protests that legislation not authorized by the people of the Philippine islands can have no binding force; that upon American testimony the Philippine revolt against Spain was fully alive before the American war; that its purpose was independence; that the Philippine republic was entitled to recognition by the United States before the protocol with Spain; that Spain has no substantial possession in the Philippines to deliver to the United States; and that the American purchase of public buildings in the Philippines is ineffective, as the Philippine republic had already acquired them by conquest. Agoncillo asks that this memorial be forwarded by the president to the senate. On the 31st, the day after the submission of the memorial, the secretary of state reported its receipt to the cabinet, which decided that it should be ignored.

Commissary General Eagan, who became subject to court martial two